

western cape scouter



September 2022



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1st faure sandvlei's gift

We are 1st Faure Sandvlei Group of the Helderberg District and we are a fairly new Group.

This is what our Cubs were up to on Women's Day, 9 August 2022. They presented their craft projects to our essential services woman, to thank them for their commitment to our community and they were truly overwhelmed.

We have one invested Cub in our Group and we are hoping to grow our Pack.

Portia Braaf - Pack Scouter 1st Faure Sandvlei



regional commissioner's reflections



Reflecting on our Region as we move into Summer mode, it is delightful to read about the fun and exciting scouting that has been happening across the Region. We are blessed with so many enthusiastic Adult Leaders and from the numbers at recent Introduction to Adult Leadership courses, many more Adults are joining in the fun of Scouting and helping to bring the Scouting experience to so many more youth.

Our numbers have increased to above pre-Covid levels and our Scouting in Schools programme is gearing up for further expansion from the current 60 interns across 24 schools with 1400 learners.

Spring is in the air and our Mayor has launched his “#SpringCleanCT” campaign. What a great idea that we all help to Spring Clean our beautiful City. It is a wonderful basis for a number of programmes, clean up challenges at home, in your neighbourhood or along our paths and rivers. There is no limit to the opportunities with great learning for our youth members and a positive impact on the City too.

Join us each Thursday in October at the Lions Head trail for the October Paint the Lion Purple challenge. Organise your own consents and permits, start hiking before 5pm, hit the top beacon by 6pm for the weekly photo and be down before 7:30pm. This is a fun and team building opportunity for all your group members including parents and family.

Have a great summer of scouting and remember: Outdoors, Fun and Adventure is what we all about. Till next edition!

Paddy Milner - Regional Commissioner

editor's desk

There is very little time to sign up to the Lekgotla so make sure you do this now if you already haven't done so. See page 4 for further details. Make sure you read



the article on Campfires Burning. Do you agree? Should we ask the Adult Training Team to see if they can run a dedicated Campfire course?

Many thanks to all those who contributed to this edition of the Western Cape Scouter. The closing date for the next edition is 23 December 2022 when we will be able to report on the long awaited Senior Scout Adventure and of course interesting stories that you are invited to write about and send to me at nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za.

Nigel Forshaw - Editor Western Cape Scouter

lekgotla - sign up now!



Saturday 1 October 2022 from 9h00 to 12h15.

One representative from each Group as well as all DCs, RCs RTC's and Manco members are invited to participate. **You can REGISTER HERE: <https://link.scouts.org.za/lekgotla-2022-signup>** Deadline for registration: 29 September 2022

The aim is to brief you on where we are with our current objectives, and to **get your input on what your needs are**, where our priorities in 2023 should lie, and **how we can work closer together to achieving our 2021 - 2024 Strategic Plan.** (<https://www.scouts.org.za/wp-content/uploads/SSA-Strategic-Plan-2021-2024-Final.pdf>)

The Virtual Lekgotla will be hosted using Microsoft Teams. It is recommended to use the Desktop MS Teams App. However, you will also be able to join using a mobile device or through your web browser. Once you are registered, you are welcome to join the **WhatsApp Group for announcements** and to ask for **technical support:** <https://chat.whatsapp.com/FPZP07H0a6e841z7f260qv>

air courses are flying



Air badge courses are being well supported by Scouts in the Region with 71 Scouts attending the Air Planner (Scoutcraft) and 34 Scouts attending the Air Navigator (Interest) badge courses.



Scouts were introduced to latitude and longitude, aeronautical charts, instrumentation, air traffic control flight plans, the semi circle rule, the significance of different cloud formations to aviators, global positioning systems and other skills.

We are indeed grateful to and thank Jonathan Starke for running the courses and allowing Scouts into his hangar at the Morningstar Airfield.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



ernest shackleton scouts own

On Saturday 09 July 2022, 11 Scouts and 4 Scouters readied themselves to be part of the Shackleton Scouts Own at the Sea Scout Base as our contribution towards the Kent Scouts initiative project.

In order to celebrate the first two Scouts to travel to Antarctica on-board the vessel Quest, which was Shackleton's last voyage, a project named ReQuest 2021 was initiated by Kent Sea Scouts in the UK. The purpose of the project was to link up with Scouts in the various stop off points on the ships original journey. One of those stops was in Cape Town.

To commemorate the centenary voyage of the vessel Quest, Scouts owns have been conducted by Scouts in all the ports that the vessel stopped at 100 years ago, for us here in Cape Town, on 13 July. This particular Scouts Own was one of the final key links in a long unbroken chain which began last September 2021 in London and will end this September 2022 in Plymouth.



The Scouts Own takes on the following format: 12 members hold onto cards, 10 of which spell out SHACKLETON with the remaining two being the introduction and concluding comments. The member then reads the text on the back of the card one by one and then the proceedings are video recorded and uploaded to the ReQuest 2021 YouTube channel.

Thanks to the Scouts, Scouters and the Sea Scout Base for making this wonderful initiative possible for Cape Town Sea Scouts. It was a memorable occasion to be part of a celebration so rich in history.

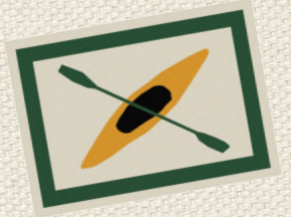
Further information and videos of the Scouts Owns, including ours, is available at this link: <https://www.request2021.org.uk/events/shackleton-scouts-own/>.

Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities

Ed. Read one of the books on Shackleton's most incredible epic rescue in 1916 and his leadership skills.

1st muizenberg synergy

The 1st Muizenberg Sea Scouts had a fantastic time at the Canoeing Scoutcraft Badge course, run by the Den Scouter and expert canoeing parents. Cub parents, senior Scouts, Rovers and Assistant Troop Scouters were all involved. We are loving the synergy in the Group!



Marihett Bredenkamp - Den Scouter 1st Muizenberg



leaping wolf project

1st Durbanville Cub Mia Joubert (11) recently initiated an awareness campaign to give responsibly to the Mould Empower Serve (MES) charity. This project formed part of her Leaping Wolf Badge.

Her aim was to motivate companies and individuals to contribute towards improving hygiene amongst the homeless and needy. She managed to gather several donations from individuals as well as content for 1060 donation bags from various companies.

Mia managed to collect products for 1111 bags by her 11th birthday on 14 July when she handed over her donation to Mould Empower Serve (MES) Durbanville. MES facilitates the responsible distribution of donations to the needy and homeless.



Together with her sister and brother, Mia made load shedding work for her and they started packing the bags during power outages. They had one weekend to pack 100 women's and 100 men's bags for the Merveville Outreach Project.

"My sister, Anja, has been a supporter of MES for two years and this helped us to decide how to give responsibly. My original plan was to walk down the streets and hand out bags. After speaking to some people at charities, they said this was not a safe approach. I didn't have plans for my birthday and decided that it would be the best day to hand over the items that we were planning to donate to MES," said Mia.



"I had a chance to see how MES allows people to exchange MES or MiChange vouchers for toiletries/food/shower/shelter. It was the best birthday ever! It felt so good to see all the smiles and tears! With everyone's help, we were making a real difference."

So far Mia has donated the following items:

- Merweville Outreach Project: 100 Men's and 100 Women's bags.
- MES Durbanville: 175 men's bags, 50 women's bags, 282 toothbrushes, 168 men's roll-on, 143 women's roll-on, 126 unisex roll-on deodorants, 111 soap bars, 96 sanitizers.
- Garden Route Support Group: 120 toothbrushes, 84 men's roll-on, 84 women's roll-on, 48 soap bars.

Mia says that they still have a number of packed Ziploc bags and she is talking to several other charities to help with safely getting the bags to people who need it most.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member

ship quartermaster course



Being only the second iteration of the ship quartermaster badge course, the course got off to a very positive and enthusiastic start on Saturday 27 Aug 2022. 15 Scouts eagerly awaited the transfer of knowledge and skill from the instructors and course leader on the following topics of interest:

- Refresh Scouts on the parts of the boat, rigging and sails.
- The correct and precise method to rig a Saldanha dinghy for Pulling* and Sailing.
- Learning how to load a Saldanha onto a road trailer.
- Be able to identify various anchors, their parts and correctly lower/weigh anchor.
- How to store boats and their equipment correctly.
- Be able to identify various blocks, their parts and application in boating.
- The correct method to belay halyards, coil ropes and prepare ropes for running out.
- Learning about the triangle of combustion, fire safety and prevention.

The course ended on a high note on Sunday 28 Aug 22 with all Scouts achieving practical and theoretical competence. Participants, please take these principles you learnt back to your home Troops and contribute to greater proficiency in the aspects you were taught.

Thanks to the Sea Scout Base for hosting the course and providing hotel standard meals!

* Fun fact: The term pulling at sea refers to each person uses a single oar on one side of the boat. The term rowing at sea denotes each rower operating a pair of oars, one on each side of the boat. Hence we refer to "pulling" in a Saldanha as each crew member occupies one oar!

Craig Burchell-Burger - Regional Coordinator Water Activities



ceo visits scout museum



As part of her recent tour of Scout properties in the Cape Town area, Mariska de Beer, our newly appointed CEO of SCOUTS South Africa, paid a courtesy visit to the Gilwood Training and Heritage Centre.

Being a weekday, she was able to meet the team of 'archivists' and this was followed by a quick but informative tour of the museum with its vast treasure trove of Scouting memorabilia.

In the photo are Mike Hatton, Mariska de Beer, Stuart Ravenscroft and

John "Haggis" Potter. On the table are items that had just been donated to the museum and no, it's not a setup to impress the boss.

Aussie Raad our property manager and acting tour guide had earlier shown Mariska the Appleton campsite on Signal Hill with its breath-taking views and following their visit to Gilwood they were off to Gugulethu Scout Centre to meet Sipho, Gilray to meet with Jaime Moss and finally the Sea Scout Base at Zandvlei to be hosted by Stef and Julie Terblanche and meet with Craig Burchell-Burger who is the Regional Coordinator Water Activities.

Stuart Ravenscroft - The Archivist Scout Heritage Centre and

Aussie Raad - Regional Property Representative

soup kitchen

The 1st Muizenberg Cub Pack recently ran a Soup kitchen for their Mandela Day service project. We were joined by 1st Retreat Cub Pack.

A total of 20 Cubs, 7 Adult leaders (Scouters) and 6 parents spent the morning of Saturday, 23 July making 40 litres of delicious potato soup and 8 loaves of cheese bread. A generous donation towards the cost of the food ingredients was received by Sustainable.co.za which is an online eco-store based in Westlake, co-owned by our Scout Group Leader Angela Lee-Wright.

The Cubs learned about healthy eating and why fruit and vegetables are good for you. They chopped up all the vegetables for the soup and Assistant Pack Scouter Samantha Rouse assisted them in preparing the soup.

Pack Scouter Lisa Storey talked to the Cubs about the importance of keeping their bodies clean and did 2 fun experiments on how soap repels dirt. The Cubs also learned about dental health and did a fun worksheet on this topic.

soup kitchen



The Cubs then prepared the bread dough and added lots of cheese, guided by Assistant Pack Scouter Jason Suter. Some of the bread mixtures had a little too much milk added but they all turned out to be delicious once baked.

While the soup was cooking, the Cubs played some games. Another activity was a Kim's memory game using their sense of Taste. Various foods were tasted and the Cubs then had to write down the order of the foods,

using their memory. Assistant Pack Scouter Candice Klotz-Gleave ran this base as well as teaching the Cubs some knots.

Everyone had a delicious lunch and then a small group of 1st Muizenberg Scouters, 1 Cub and 2 Scouts took the remaining 30 litres of soup and 4 loaves of bread to Muizenberg Park that afternoon. Samantha Rouse co-ordinated with U-turn Ministries and the Rea Thusana Foundation to spread the word to the homeless in Muizenberg.



We served about 40 people in less than 2 hours and it was an incredibly humbling experience to meet them all, hear their stories and to see how hard life is for them, especially in this bitterly cold weather. Most of the people we met live under the Muizenberg bridge, in Muizenberg Park or in the mountains above the park. They were all so friendly and happy to see us and so very grateful for the wonderful warm meal.

We also met the founder of the Rea Thusana Foundation, Phinius Sebatsane, who has been working with the homeless in Muizenberg for 5 years. He works closely with U-turn and will be passing on our clothing donations to them for distribution via their Mi-change voucher system.

We plan to continue to cook a meal once a month for the homeless in Muizenberg. In August, we'll be doing Macaroni Cheese. The Cub parents have been very generous in donating many of the ingredients, as well as continuing to donate second hand clothing that we can pass on to U-turn.

Lisa Storey



gilwell reunion

The Gilwell Reunion took place on the traditional date of the first Saturday in September. This year the Western Cape celebrated 100 years of Adult Training in the Region, a truly fantastic achievement!



To celebrate, participants were given a choice of three fun morning activities: abseiling in the Higgovale Quarry (thanks to Sean Kets for running this), beer tasting at the Jack Black brewery and a tour of the Bootleggers coffee roastery. There were many excited faces at all of these activities, for various reasons! The afternoon programme was held at the newly revamped 4th

Claremont Scout Hall in Fernwood which has recently restarted operations after going defunct in the late 90s. The afternoon programme commenced with the investiture of Irma Cotton and Chantel Innes into the 1st Gilwell Troop after successfully completing their Wood Badges, and recognition of those who had completed their Wood Badges in the year past. Lunch was served shortly thereafter, followed by a brief address from National.

Paddy Milner gave a very motivational address on how we, as a Movement, stand on the shoulders of the many giants who have preceded us, and how Scouting needs to stay relevant in order for the Movement to flourish. Paddy also highlighted the importance of Wood Badge training for all Scouters to ensure that Scouting remains relevant, and in line with our Aims, principles and Methods. Stuart Ravenscroft, the archivist from the Scout Museum, then gave an interesting talk on the 100 years of adult training in the Region, supported by his team and the many interesting items that had been brought from the Museum at Gilwood. The afternoon ended with a fantastic Troop photo, and many individual photos thereafter, notably with the living legend Denzil Roberts, who brought his Wood Badge certificate from him: dated 1955! It was a great day for the Gilwell Troop to meet, and we look forward to next year's event.

Peter Otzen - Regional Team Coordinator Adult Training



gilwell reunion



Ed. If the first Saturday of September is the 1st September, then the Gilwell Reunion is the following Saturday!



r-don district competition



The 1st Durbanville scouts recently carried the day when they won the annual R-Don scout competition which was held at the 1st Durbanville Scout Hall.

Six teams from various troops in the Kanonkop District participated in the competition which took place on 2 and 3 September.

1st Durbanville entered two teams: Team A

won the competition while Team B came third. Durbanville Kraaifontein's A team took second place.

The competition is a district standing camp competition where teams consisting of eight scouts camp under canvas, build gadgets and carry out other activities which are evaluated during the course of a weekend.

Caleb Ashley Cooper of the 1st Durbanville Rovers organised the competition and rovers and senior scouts from across the district assisted as judges.

The theme for this year's R-Don was the Hogwarts School of Wizardry and Witchcraft.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



conservation badge course



The Conservation (Scoutcraft) badge course was recently run at Hawequas. It was a fun course and well attended by 41 Scouts.

Scouts learnt how to use the iNaturalist smartphone app in case they didn't already know and took photos of 4 plants and 4 animals.

There were also sessions on alien plants at Hawequas, pollution and the water cycle. Scouts learnt more about the animals used in their Patrol names being Bluebuck, Cape Lion, Cape Mountain Zebra, Black Wildebeest, Bontebok and Quagga. All these animals are either extinct or brought back from the brink of extinction. During load shedding a conservation quiz was run. The

amount of water on the Earth is a constant volume. True or False?

Each Scout made a solar oven out of a pizza box and tin foil. There was no sun but the marie biscuits with chocolate were enjoyed nevertheless.

In the evening Scouts took turns in using ultra violet torches to look for scorpions under rocks. Scouts needed to turn over between 30 and 40 small rocks to have a chance of seeing a Scorpion.

A Scorpion under an ultra violet light lights up spectacularly. Most Scouts saw at least one Scorpion.

The course was indeed challenged by load shedding and a sub station failure when we wanted to watch a video on Climate Change narrated by Sir David Attenborough but eventually we had success after an over 5 hour black out.

Unfortunately the rain stopped us from doing the hack which would have cut down Hakea and Pine. Walking in wet Fynbos would have resulted in extremely wet clothes and shoes.

Many thanks to Terrance and Sharon Ievers (caterers), Prof Tony Rebelo (conservation biologist), Charles Rouse (instructor and first aider), Elton le Roux (instructor) and Scout Thomas Phillips (assistant).

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme and Course Leader

Right: Scout Elinor Hansen's photo of a Striped lesser-Thickettail Scorpion - *Uroplectes lineatus*



flying models and saaf museum



It started off with building kites and gliders for the flying models badge and ended with a trip to the South African Air Force Museum to fly our kites. On the 22nd August, under the supervision of Dave Crombie, the 2nd Plumstead cubs had fun building their kites from plastic bags and dowel sticks. The cubs were very keen to try out their kites and they got the chance the following weekend. Armed with their kites the cubs headed off to the SAAF museum. Here the cubs got to learn about the history of the SAAF and see all weapons used in the past. The highlight of the trip was the tour to the restricted hanger to see planes close up that played a role in the air force. The cubs also got to look at the Fire engine used by the SAAF.



We are super proud of our cubs as they managed to fly their kites even with very little wind. Thank you Dave for helping our cubs build kites that are easy to fly even with the slightest bit of wind.



The SAAF Museum is free to the public and relies on donations to keep going. Buying one of their delicious hot dogs is a very yummy way to support them.



Caryn Behrmann - Pack Scouter 2nd Plumstead



fires and cooking badge

The Fires and Cooking badge course is one of the very well supported and popular badge courses run in the Region. This course attracted 70 Scouts.



Scouts had to light a fire to cook a Hunter's Stew and twists. There was light drizzle at the start of the day which challenged the Scouts who went through two cartons of matches (that is many boxes of matches). The drizzle however let up eventually and gave Scouts a bit of a break.

Each Scout got sosatie stick, placed a Vienna sausage on the stick and wrapped twist dough around the sausage. The dough was made from self raising flower, salt, and plain yoghurt. The twist was

then of course toasted on the fire.

The staff were run off their feet in managing such large numbers but it was nevertheless very heartening and so rewarding to see so many younger Scouts from all parts of the Region having such fun while cooking.



Many thanks to Terrance Ievers and his team for running a great course and providing our younger Scouts with lots of fun and with a new badge to sew on to their uniform.

Nigel Forshaw - RTC Scout Programme



alien clearing at hawequas

The Scouters, Rovers, Scouts, Cubs, Meerkats and parents of 1st Durbanville undertook a massive alien vegetation clean-up at Hawequas on 23 July 2022.

The group arrived armed with saws, axes and other gardening tools and by the afternoon it had made a sizeable dent in the invasive alien vegetation. Later, picnic baskets were unpacked and everyone enjoyed a well-earned rest before heading back to Durbanville.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



Ed. Much clearing of alien Pine, Hakea and Black Wattle continues at Hawequas managed and supported by John Wilson and a team of local labourers. Black Wattle is the most troublesome and concerning alien to deal with because expensive herbicide has to be applied by adults to stop hacked plants from resprouting.

Much more and how to contribute to the Hawequas Fynbos Restoration Project may be found [here](#) on the Western Cape Hawequas website. Thank-you 1st Durbanville.

boatswain badge course



The Boatswain badge course was a well supported with 23 Scouts taking part.



The Scouts were shown how to use hand and power tools as well as basic fibre glass repairs and canvas stitching. We had some wonderful creations made from canvas including hats, bags and cell phone pouches.

Scouts are required to make a lanyard from 40m of cord with a number of different bends and knots that go into it.

The Scouts were taught how to pipe using the Boatswain Call and learnt The Still, Carry On and Pipe the Side. Scouts were sent to the point to practice, being far away from other users of the Sea Scout

Base.

Some of the knots learnt were the Back and Eye Splice, Marlinspike Hitch, Double Carrick Bend, Catspaw, Mouse a



Hook, Turk's Head, Hunter's Bend and the Jury Masthead Knot.

A big thank you to the instructors being Craig Burchell-Burger, Mia Ehlers, Jezzi O'Hagan, Daniel Williams and Matthew Bosch for all their hard work over the two weekends.

Robert Schmid - Course Leader

orange camp

There was a citrusy breeze of excitement in the usually salt-smelling air. This is going to be a camp to remember!

14H00: Helderberg District arrived at Hermanus HQ filled with spirit, staves, ropes, tents and indemnity forms.

14H30: Sharp. Flag opening followed by a patrol and kit inspection.

15H30: PL meeting.

This is where the fun begins; we were doing an amazing race, consisting of bases at significant points in Hermanus. These included Law and Promise at Gearings point; Marching round the dead at the WWII graveyard a.k.a. orienteering and making "orange-ade" with dubious utensils involving a retrieving an object from the bottom of a pool.

Rushing to get our shopping for supper done (on a budget) at the Station mall, ... while knowing full well we still had 3 other bases; was definitely entertaining (to the adults).



After fun and games it was time for business; Construction of pioneering projects and cooking dinner over an open fire, with a side of (hopefully cooked) apple pie.

Night bases followed... and let me tell you if you weren't reciting snakes, you were finding your way with a



compass, whipping ropes or even jumping over cacti (as a Dino of course).

01H00 There was decided we shall go stalking on and around another Landmark; Hoy's Koppie.

Now if a bunch of teens walking around, at that time in the morning isn't suspicious, the fact that they are scrambling through bushes surely are... Must be why the cops pulled us over.

Luckily they were just curious and even took a district photo with us. And that wraps up the 1st day and the early hours of the next. Good night!

06H00 After every long night comes a good morning! With minimal (soaking wet) sleep under our Scout belts, we must brave another day. Having the choice between jogging up Hoy's Koppie multiple times or doing reps. at H.Q. the morning was kicked off with a lot of sweat.

orange camp

...'Ever pondered why baking decent pancakes on a camp is a mission impossible?' You are not alone, this was the question on everyone's mind as we made an attempt at a pancake breakfast.



Somehow our spirits was once again lifted. Now what may be the bringer of this joy? Has to be a good old fashioned campfire, yes you heard it! A campfire after breakfast!

Singing, no, rather screaming along to familiar

campfire songs and laughing at ridiculous skits just makes one feel happy and you know, bright



ORANGE.

Our joy was short lived because a soul juicing inspection was to follow. 15 minutes to make our "pigsties" look like a military grade masterpiece.

Let me tell you everyone was scrambling to hide the imperfections and finish their last lashings. This was a rough one. Inspection came too soon. Therefore what is the most logical thing to do just after you made your "military grade masterpiece"?

Tear it down (of course). Let no piece remain of it, like it was never even there, and have ANOTHER inspection.

Now ladies and gentlemen the time we have all been waiting for;

orange camp

AWARDS!

2nd Somerset West won best campsite, Best meal as well as Best Log Book.

1st Hermanus won Best Stalking, Fittest male, Leewin Bullen-Ko; as well as the winner of The dinosaur game; Alex du Plooy.

1st Somerset West was the fittest patrol overall. Olivia van Dalem was the fittest female. Most times up and down Hoy's koppie was won by James Sprowson.

The Overall winners for the Orange Camp 2022 was won by (drumroll) 1st Strand - the real Orange guys. Congratulations everyone!

What a memorable district event!

Karlia Schneeberger - Scout 1st Hermanus



gordon shield

"The wide world is all about you: you can fence yourselves in, but you cannot forever fence it out." - J.R.R. Tolkien.



Deep within the misty mountains of Hawequas Scout Ranch, the 35 teams gathered to compete in the Gordon's Shield camping competition over the weekend of 17-18 September 2022. With 3 years having gone by since Gordon's Shield was hosted in one location, the scouts brought their best and met the challenge with fierce determination.

The "Lord of the Rings" theme brought out the creative skills of all who participated. Elven ears, traditional dwarfish dances and hobbit-hole gateways were just some ways in which the teams went the extra mile to score bonus points. Skills such as pioneering, mapping, first aid, survival, orienteering, and archery were put to the test and despite the demanding competition, the teams finished neck-to-neck with only 1 point distinguishing first and second place.



Congratulations to all scouts for participating with courage and enthusiasm, and a special congratulations to the top three teams. 6th Rondebosch won the Gordon's Shield for the second year in a row. For the first time in years there was a tie for second place being 1st Durbanville and 2nd Bergvliet.

A huge thank you to all the judges who volunteered to assist with running a successful competition, to the parents and troop scouters assisting with transport and planning, and most importantly – thank you to the 35 patrols who now eagerly await their next adventure.

Monét van Antwerpen - Chief Judge 2022

gordon shield



Oarsman badge course



On the 7, 20 and 21st of August, we ran our annual Oarsman Scoutcraft badge course at the Sea Scout Base. We had 5 boats on the water and 30 scouts on course. We had an extremely successful course with an excellent pass rate. The weather was fantastic and allowed for some great pulling experience for our juniors. Over the two weekends the scouts were exposed to different weather conditions which allowed for them to get the full pulling experience. On the last day of the course, we had a treasure hunt through Marina da Gama, the scouts absolutely loved it! It was a befitting end to a great course. Due to yet another sewage spill, we were not able to do our usual beach trip, which always brings a new dimension and level of excitement to the course. Nonetheless, it was a brilliant course overall.

I'd like to acknowledge all of my instructors and thank them once again for giving up their weekend to share their knowledge and skill and help empower our young scouts.

Tahirah Abrahams - Course Leader

Ed. Ever wondered what the requirements for the badge are? See Scout Wiki or see below:

1. Pass or have passed the requirements of the Watermanship Scoutcraft Badge.
2. Demonstrate how to load a pulling boat with stores and personnel, and how to trim the boat correctly.
3. Explain the following:
 - a) Safety rules applicable to boating in your area.
 - b) The International Rules of the Road concerning right of way of power boats, Oarsman boats, canoes, and boats under sail.
 - c) Rules applicable to personal buoyancy.
 - d) How and why you would check the boat for buoyancy.
4. Discuss the signs of approaching bad weather as well as fine weather for your area.
5. Understand and demonstrate the resuscitation of the apparently drowned.
6. Demonstrate:
 - a) The following knots:
 - i. Anchor Bend (Fisherman Bend).
 - ii. Water Bowline.
 - iii. Rolling Hitch.
 - iv. Sheet bend
 - v. Double Sheet bend.
 - vi. Carrick Bend.
 - b) How to prevent a synthetic rope from fraying.
7. Name all the parts of a pulling boat, oars, and rudder.

coxswain badge course

8. On land, cast a heaving line at least 8 metres to fall within 2 markers spaced 2 metres apart.
9. Using a gig or similar craft row at least 100 metres double banked, turn the craft as directed and row back. A coxswain may keep the boat straight.
10. Log at least 3 hours of pulling. The log must be certified by your Troop Scouter.



campfires burning

In my time at Hawequas I have witnessed many campfires and it struck me that there are very few good Campfires happening in my opinion. So what makes for a good Campfire and what is the aim of a Campfire?

The fire itself is the key to the event – the fire is not supposed to be a Bonfire. At our Campfire Circle the fire should be no higher than 1 metre. We don't want roasted campers. As the lyrics of the opening song go – Campfires Burning, Campfires Burning, Draw nearer draw nearer suggests that once the fire is lit, all move closer, and not further because it's a "bonfire".

The programme of the Campfire should follow what the fire is doing, initially songs that have everyone singing – not mostly "Repeat After Me" songs but "Do the Hokey Pokey" type songs and a yell or two. As the fire starts to subside it is a good time for some patrol skits and a bit of wood can be added to the fire. The fire should be allowed to die off slowly, with no more wood being added, this is the time for gentle quiet songs, such as "The Sounds of Silence" even someone strumming away gently on an acoustic guitar – this is the time for contemplation, personal worship. It's a quiet time and to bring the Campfire to the end and one sings "Taps" and wanders and walks away from the campfire circle singing Kumbaya.



The aim of the Campfire is to create a feeling of togetherness, a time of thanks – this cannot be achieved by screaming, people stomping around creating dust and spoiling the magic of the night. I shall be listing carefully to see and listen to who has read this article.

Kuba Miszewski - Happy Camper

orienteering competition

On the 28 August 2022, I participated in the annual Scout Orienteering Competition which was held at the !Kwa ttu Nature Reserve and San Heritage Centre.

This was a welcome change from the usual urban setting of this competition. After the scenic drive up the west coast we arrived and were introduced to the new methods of how the competition would be run.

We then set off planning our route as we ran, trying to stay focused on competing whilst taking in the natural beauty of the landscape and animals. The course was very well set and provided a proper challenge to our fitness and map reading skills.



Once everyone had completed the course we were delighted to be awarded first overall troop as well as first in both the senior and junior categories. We are so grateful for the organisers who made it an awesome day out for everyone who attended.

Liam Coetzee - Orienteering Patrol Leader 2nd Fish Hoek



1st durbanville scouts busy



The 1st Durbanville scouts participated in every single badge course on offer in the 3rd term. 1st Durbanville Troop

Scouter Johann Visser (aka Guppie) had to set aside a large chunk of time at the end of each troop meeting to hand out badges. 32 City Nature Challenge Badges were earned by the 1st Durbanville scouts.



The 1st Durbanville scouts, cubs, scouters and parents donned warm jackets, beanies and gloves to brave the cold for a sunset beach hike at Blouberg Beach on 19 August 2022.

It started raining lightly at the end point and everyone scrambled into their cars and made a quick getaway before the deluge.

Ursula Wilbraham - 1st Durbanville Committee Member



springbok scouts

We congratulate our latest Springbok Scouts who are:



Gabriella Richards
1st Muizenberg



Sai Ehrhardt
9/16th Cape Town



Capucine Wiroth
9/16th Cape Town

Springbok theme badges cover:

- Safety Awareness
- Living Outdoors
- Adventure
- Skills
- Service
- Personal Development?



Christopher Hapgood-Strickland
1st Strand

These Springbok activities are evaluated at Regional level:

- Major Project
 - Community Service
 - Expedition
- and all others by the Troop Scouter or delegate

Regional Contact List

Paddy Milner	Regional Commissioner	paddy.milner@scouts.org.za
Aussie Raad	Regional Property Rep	aussie.raad@scouts.org.za
Jenny Martin	Group Support	jenny.martin@scouts.org.za
Charles Prince	Regional Finance Rep	charles.prince@scouts.org.za
Ahmad Solomon	SiS Project Leader	ahmad.solomon@scouts.org.za
Judith Bishop	RTC Meerkat Programme	judith.bishop@scouts.org.za
Nicola Jonas	RTC Cub Programme	nicky.jonas@scouts.org.za
Nigel Forshaw	RTC Scout Programme	nigel.forshaw@scouts.org.za
Ubayd Bapoo	RTC Rover Programme	ubayd.bapoo@scouts.org.za
Paul Innes	RTC Adult Support	paul.innes@scouts.org.za
Peter Otzen	RTC Adult Leader Training	peter.otzen@scouts.org.za
Nimmy Abrahams	RTC Scouting in Schools	nimmy.abrahams@scouts.org.za
Craig Burchell-Burger	RC Water Activities	craig.burchellburger@scouts.org.za
Virgil van der Horst	RC Land Activities	virgilvanderhorst@yahoo.com
Eleanor Brown	Regional Administrator	eleanor.brown@scouts.org.za
Daniel Skriker	Regional Young Leaders Rep	daniel.skriker@scouts.org.za